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BRITAIN'S FLEET STILL FORMIDABLE

Disclosures In Commons

European Union Pact Now Half Completed

Brussels, Mar. 8.—The world's four greatest colonial powers and Luxembourg on Monday completed more than half the articles of a pact binding them into a military and economic core of the 16 Marshall Plan powers.

This was reported amid growing excitement that the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg might come to Brussels to sign the pact before the 16 powers meet next week. The jobbers of the Foreign Affairs Ministry were thronged on Monday with a record assembly of correspondents pouring in from abroad as it was learned that the Western Union was assuming ever greater importance with each new step in the conference. "When we were in the preliminary agreement (of the three low country nations last year) we had not foreseen that things would move so far," Luxembourg's Government Counsellor Pierre Elvinger said.

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

Monday's session dealt with economic questions which it had first been supposed the conference might not even come to discuss. British Press Attache Stephen Lockhart, as Conference spokesman said they had been "set aside" at the beginning of the Conference last week.

It was understood these were raised by the Benelux countries as their counterpart to the political and military Western Union first proposed by British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin. They will tend to draw the signatories closer together into a vast field of economic energy in which the dynamism of the industrial low countries will be felt.

The conference reached the stage where it was able to elect a drafting committee and refer to it what will be the six or seven articles of the treaty. The treaty was expected to have about a dozen articles, Lockhart said.

IMPORTANT PREAMBLE

The preamble still remained to be tackled, and delegates attached great importance to it. They already had agreed that it would contain a statement of principles which would automatically exclude any totalitarian power.

The question of the colonies also still lay largely ahead. Defence of one another's colonies was not expected to be agreed on by the mother countries in the commitments for joint protection of the homelands.—Associated Press.

Home Fleet To Cruise

London, Mar. 8.—The Admiralty announced yesterday that the British Home Fleet will visit the West Indies next autumn and call at "other British possessions in the area."

Making the announcement in the House of Commons, the Admiralty Financial Secretary, Mr. John Dugdale, did not specify the exact ports of call.

British Honduras, now subject of a territorial dispute with neighbouring Guatemala, is situated about a day's cruise from the Indies.

Two British cruisers, the Sheffield and the Devonshire were sent to Belize, the Honduras capital, last week after the longstanding territorial dispute with Guatemala blazed up anew.

Mr. Dugdale said that the Fleet would engage in manoeuvres and would return to Britain in early December.

He said the composition of the fleet was not yet decided but it would probably consist of the battleship Duke of York, the third aircraft carrier squadron, the second cruiser squadron, two flotillas of destroyers and a fleet replenishment ship.—Associated Press.

Lab "Rebels" Weaken

Two Withdraw Names From Amendment

London, Mar. 8.—Two Labour Members of Parliament today withdrew their support of a weekend move to challenge the Government's bill covering the withdrawal from Palestine.

Mr. Ian Mikardo, a Labour Member of Parliament, disclosed last night that he and fellow Members intended to stage a "revolt" when the Palestine bill came before the House of Commons next Wednesday.

It was later reported that nine Labour Members had signed a motion to reject the Government's bill.

Two of the nine, Mr. T. C. Skelington-Lodge and Mr. W. H. Ayres, explained, when they withdrew today, that they had signed the motion because they felt it would be a good thing to have a comprehensive debate on the Palestine issues.

As the motion has been construed as a revolt against the Government, they no longer wished to be associated with it.—Reuter.

GOVT. CRITICISED

London, Mar. 8.—Britain today has "a formidable fleet, second only in size to the United States," Mr. John Dugdale, the Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, said this in the House of Commons today in reply to recent criticism of the size and effectiveness of the Royal Navy.

"Except for battleships, where we certainly have fewer than before the war, we have today as many ships of each class as we had in an average prewar year," he declared. By December, the Royal Navy hoped to have in commission four battleships, three fleet carriers, five light fleet carriers, 17 cruisers, 34 submarines, 52 destroyers and 43 frigates.

Mr. Dugdale was speaking in a debate on the Navy Estimates for the next financial year, which at £153 million, are £43,700,000 less than for the current year.

Referring to the "great development" in destroyers, he said that the improvement was so great that Britain's 24 newest destroyers had a comparable armament to prewar light cruisers.

On the decision to scrap five old battleships, Mr. Dugdale said: "It would be stupid to keep them on now, using money and manpower to preserve them as souvenirs to be scrapped at the outbreak of another war and probably sunk within a few days."

"We mean to see that any admirals who may have to fight a war, be it in five, 10, 15 or even 50 years time, will be certain of having the most up-to-date weapons with which to wage it," Mr. Dugdale declared.

"For that reason, we are proposing to spend about £9 million on research into a substantial part of it would go into research into the effects of the atom bomb on war at sea."

The protection of crews from atomic bomb effects was receiving great attention. One of the most troublesome areas was the radioactive contamination of a ship caused by a nearby detonation.

"SNORT" EQUIPMENT

Future submarines would have the "snort" equipment for taking in fresh air by means of a vertical pipe, enabling the British submarine Alliance to make a trip of 3,000 miles submerged the whole time.

The Admiralty was also investigating alternative methods of submarine propulsion, including those initiated in Germany.

The development of the gas turbine engine for marine propulsion was still in its infancy. If successful, it would revolutionise the whole of naval warfare and merchant shipping.

Referring to the increase in the fleets of the Dominions, Mr. Dugdale declared: "We cannot today consider the Royal Navy in isolation, alone responsible for the defence of the Commonwealth."

"A great and growing body of ships and men has come to join us and to form a bulwark of strength to the British Commonwealth of Nations."

Canada now had a far larger fleet than before the war. The two new Dominions of India and Pakistan had each decided to have navies of their own. India's would include a cruiser and several destroyers.

In the colonial empire, Malaya had "shown a fine example" by the decision reached in January to create its first permanent naval force.

Proposals for the establishment of naval forces were being considered in other colonies.

CHURCHILL'S CRITICISM

Mr. Winston Churchill, leader of the Opposition, said the efficient administration in the fighting services had sunk to its lowest level and that the Government had the vital grip to restore the situation.



PRESIDENT PAASIKIVI

Commons To Probe Allegations

"Secret Supporters" Of Communist Party

London, Mar. 8.—The House of Commons today ordered its Committee of Privileges to investigate the publication by the Daily Mail of allegations that some Members of Parliament were "secret supporters" of the Communist Party.

Mr. Francis George Bowles, a Labour Member, drew the attention of the House of Commons to the published statement which, he said, meant, in effect, that 29 Members of Parliament were traitors and secret agents of what he described as "a future enemy power."

The Speaker of the House ruled that there was a prima facie case of a breach of privilege and the matter was then referred to the Committee for investigation.

Mr. Bowles read to the House of Commons the text of the report which stated that British radio listeners had heard the author, Mr. C. Brogan, suggest that secret sessions of Parliament were useless as "secret agents of a potential enemy" would be present.

THE DANGER

Mr. Brogan was quoted as telling a reporter: "I know that any defence information would be given to the Russians. The secret supporters of the Communist Party are the danger, not the open ones."

"I don't think Mr. William Gallacher (A Communist Member of Parliament) would do it, for instance. But I understand that he is one of these secret supporters in the House."

Mr. Bowles commented: "It seems to me to be very much more serious to suggest that Members of Parliament might give away, under the influence of drink or for money, secrets of a Party meeting."

This appeared to be an allusion to cases last year in which the Committee of Privileges found two Members guilty of a breach of privilege because they divulged secret secrets of meetings of the Parliamentary Labour Party.—Reuter.

Finland To Negotiate Pact With Russia

DELEGATION FOR MOSCOW

Helsinki, Mar. 8.—The Finnish Government decided today to accept Marshal Stalin's recent offer to negotiate a Finnish-Russian pact of friendship and mutual assistance. A Finnish delegation will go to Moscow shortly to open talks.

A statement issued by the Finnish Foreign Office tonight said: "The President of the Republic has today in the State Council decided to reply in the affirmative to the Soviet Government's proposal to enter into negotiations with a view to the conclusion of a pact of friendship and mutual assistance and to propose that these negotiations take place in Moscow."

Finland's reply came 11 days after Marshal Stalin first made his proposals for a friendship and mutual assistance pact. Differences arose, it was learned, over the place where the negotiations were to be held.

PRIVATE DISAPPROVAL

The Finnish President, M. Paasikivi, preferred Helsinki, where the Finnish delegation would be in closer touch with the Government and Parliament, who must be consulted before Finland can constitutionally agree to any pact.

Some members of the Social Democratic Party have privately expressed disapproval of the negotiations taking place in Moscow on the ground that the Finns may be confronted with the text of a treaty and be given up opportunity to negotiate modifications.

There have been hints in the past few days that Finland would want modifications of the proposals made by Marshal Stalin and would not be prepared to accept the Russian treaties with Hungary and Rumania as an exact model.

A Finnish Foreign Office spokesman said tonight Finland's reply had not yet been sent to Marshal Stalin.

He would not confirm that the reply would make the same points as were included in today's official statement.

The Finnish Foreign Office communiqué followed an hour's meeting today of the Finnish Foreign Affairs Committee of six Ministers, followed by a full meeting of the Cabinet, presided over by the Finnish President, which lasted nearly two hours.

The Social Democrats support the principle of negotiating with Russia, but in a manifesto published last week, described such negotiations as "against the will of the majority of the Finnish people."

LIKELY DELEGATES

The composition of the Finnish delegation will be decided at another Cabinet meeting tomorrow. It is likely to consist of three or four Ministers and three Members of Parliament representing the People's Democrats, the Social Democrats and the Finnish People's parties.

The Ministers strongly tipped as delegates are M. Maunula, Pekala, the Prime Minister, M. V. J. Leino, Minister of the Interior, both People's Democrats, and M. Carl Enckell, the Foreign Minister, an Independent.

Arab Leader Draws Up Battle Plan

(BY SEAGHAN MAYNES)

At the Samaria mountain headquarters of the "Arab Liberation Army," Mar. 8.—Battle plans for the Arab Liberation Army's war against the Jews in Palestine were drawn up tonight in this closely guarded mountain-top village, now serving as temporary headquarters of the Arab Commander-in-Chief, Fawzi Bey Kawukji, who crossed into Palestine from Syria with armoured cars and jeeps mounted with machine guns.

The Arab Commander-in-Chief tonight got down to work with his local commanders, pointing out maps and receiving intelligence reports on the strength, armament and personnel of Jewish settlements against which the full force of his trained men, with modern weapons, will be thrown when the battle plans are put into action.

When I reached the mountain headquarters after passing through several check points and road blocks manned by disciplined Arab uniformed troops, Kawukji told me: "Our men will be ordered into action when the battle plans are completed."

All day and night, endless streams of vehicles have been churning up the mud on the partly flooded mountain roads, following the torrential rains.

Arab guerrilla chiefs, in Arab guerrilla and various types of battles dress, surrounded by armed escorts, are converging on the headquarters to receive instructions on points and the dispositioning of the forces for all-out attacks.—Reuter.

ORGY OF PLUNDER AND LOOTING IN YEMEN'S CAPITAL

Cairo, Mar. 8.—An orgy of plunder and looting is going on in Sanaa, the mountain capital of the Yemen, according to reports reaching here from various sources in the Arabian peninsula.

The reports indicated that the situation had grown worse in The Yemen, where the 55-year old Imam Yahya was recently assassinated and where civil war is reported between Emir Self El Imam, Ahmed, the eldest son of the Imam, and the 51-year old chief, Sayed Abdullah El Wazir.

Sayed El Wazir was said to have appealed to King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, who last week announced his intention to send him a "hundred" to deal with the Bedouin looters in the capital.

The appeal said the Bedouins who support neither faction in the dispute were taking advantage of the troubled situation to attack property in the old walled city of Sanaa, where they believed fabulous wealth, attributed to the late Imam and to the country, might be hidden.

MISSION DELAYED

The appeal was taken to King Ibn Saud by a three-man delegation which went to Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital.

The Arab League's mission, which has gone to investigate conditions in The Yemen, has been held up at

Riyadh by the illness of its leader, Abdul Rahman Azzam, the Secretary General, who has influenza.

El Wazir's delegation is reported to be urging the Arab League mission to continue its journey to Sanaa as soon as possible, "before the situation becomes too critical."

In Cairo, it was stated that the Egyptian Government has decided to remain neutral in the present dispute in The Yemen, pending a full report from the mission.—Reuter.

PRINCE'S STATEMENT

Paris, Mar. 8.—Prince Abdullah, issuing a statement to the press as chief of the Yemen delegation to the United Nations and general representative abroad, said his father's policy had always been to prevent any foreign interference in the affairs of his country and to refuse all concessions.

"This policy was bound to disappear from the minds of the fanatics, the creation of trouble in the country would provide them with the opportunity of realising their objectives. It was difficult to foment trouble as long as his late Majesty was alive."

He described the murderers of his father as "a band of assassins."

The legitimate king, our great brother, Ahmed, is strengthening his forces every day and every hour."

he added: "Soldiers outraged by the horrible crime at Sanaa are rallying round him, who is the legitimate heir to the throne, to avenge their Imam, our late father, who is mourned by his people and by the Arab world."

DELIVERANCE PROMISE

Prince Abdullah said his brother now had his headquarters at Hajja, in the north of the country.

He would shortly make a triumphant entry into the capital of The Yemen and deliver it from the assassins.

The prince added that when order was restored, a charter would be established, in which all representatives of the nation would collaborate in a policy of friendship with all countries.

"It is obvious that we shall give preference to our Arab brothers and, after that, to those countries who show no imperialism in regard to us."

"With the Koran in one hand and the sword in the other and progress as his object, His Majesty, our great brother, the Imam Ahmed, will restore order and reconquer the criminals, and the people of The Yemen will once again find peace and security for its noble aspirations."—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Antarctic Strategy

THE hostile moves by the Argentina and Chile to deprive Britain of her sovereignty over the Falkland Islands dependencies may, on the surface, strike a comic opera note, but it would be a mistake to dismiss the establishment of alien bases on Deception and Greenwich Islands as frivolous in intention. Superficially the islands in dispute are unimportant, but when considered geographically they merit serious attention. The first overt move leading to the present developments was the despatch by the Argentina, and then Chile, of so-called scientific and meteorological expeditions to Antarctica, and, not without significance, Soviet Russia has, for the second year in succession, sent to the same area a whaling expedition. The research missions of the two South American nations, however, have developed into belligerent and political gestures, with Argentina establishing a military outpost on Deception Island, and the President of Chile, doing likewise on Greenwich Island. Ostensibly both countries have made big play of their "historical and moral" claims to sovereignty in Antarctica—claims which, in the light of world developments, are scarcely exaggerated. The geographical importance of the Antarctic islands cannot be ignored. To the naval powers of the Atlantic and Pacific they are the strategic link between the tip of South America and the Antarctic Continent, with the Straits of Magellan offering a possible alternative to the Panama

Canal to the naval powers of the Indian Ocean. Antarctica is vital as a protection of an alternative to the Great Circle air route from Britain, through South Africa, across the Antarctic fringe of the Indian Ocean to Western Australia. These are geographical considerations which, as much as anything else, make it necessary for Britain to retain her foothold in Antarctica. It is reasonable to assume other aspects, such as the strategic importance of these islands in connection with atomic rocket weapons, which are certain to be used in any future war of world dimensions. Australia is the natural experimental ground for these rockets, but should the traditional air links with Britain, across southeast Asia, India and the Middle East be cut, an alternative route must be secured. Antarctica commands itself. Moreover the British Commonwealth's desire to take every reasonable safeguard on these lines is further indicated by the recent despatch of meteorologists to Heard Island, roughly halfway between Australia and South Africa, and about 1,000 miles north of the Antarctic Circle, and the sending of South African parties to the Marion and Prince Edward Islands, a few miles north of Heard Island. There is every indication, therefore, that the sudden interest of the Argentina and Chile in the Falkland dependencies is based on something more than national pride or historical precedent. It is part of the so-called "cold war" to gain strategical advantages.

STOP PRESS

MacArthur's Decision

Tokyo, Mar. 8.—General Douglas MacArthur today said that he would run for President if nominated.—United Press.

CENTRAL THEATRE

5 SHOWS DAILY
AT 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

A NEW "DAY OF INFAMY" GOES
DOWN IN "HORROR" HISTORY!

700 CAPTIVE
STORY OF JAP
ATROCITIES
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TWO-MAN
SUBMARINE

BEAUTY TRAPPED BY
JAP TREACHERY!

TIMELY TERRIFIC DRAMA
ripped from today's
SENSATIONAL HEADLINES
and brought to the
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TERROR... and TORTURE!

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ANN SAVAGE
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Screen Play by Griffin Jay, Leslie T. White - Directed by LEW LANDERS - Produced by JACK FIER

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I AIN'T GOT NOBODY

JEFFREY LYNN · WYMAN

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DISAPPEARS

A WARNER BROS. HIT WITH
EDWARD EVERETT HORTON · HERBERT ANDERSON - Directed by D. ROSS LEDERMAN
Original Screen Play by Scott Darling and Ernie Latham - A Warner Bros. Post National Picture

ALSO LATEST G. B. NEWS:
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A WARNER BROS. HIT!

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EDNA FERBER'S STORY OF STORIES

SARATOGA TRUNK

WARNER'S BIGGEST!

TO-MORROW THE SECRET: A MILLION KEPT!
Ralph RICHARDSON
Raymond HUNTLEY in "School for Secrets"



FALKLAND ISLAND FOLLIES

PERON 'REVOLUTIONS MUST EXPAND'

By Charles Foley

PERON politics transferred to a world stage is the reason why General Peron, Argentine President, has found it necessary to challenge Britain by trespassing in force among our Antarctic islands.

There is trouble at home. The basic way of dealing with internal strife is to pick a noisy quarrel out of doors. What better than a naval parade in the Antarctic, with newsreel cameras behind the guns and a

1948 IS BRITAIN'S 5-FESTIVAL YEAR

MUSIC lovers from overseas who are visiting Britain this year will be able to enjoy a brilliant festival programme. Throughout the summer months, five major events are being staged which will offer to the discriminating the best in music and drama.

The first International Festival held in Edinburgh has already established this beautiful and historical capital as a focal point in the musical world. Again this year a galaxy of conductors, orchestras, soloists as well as stars of opera, ballet and theatre of international renown are offering a crowded programme. Once more during August, Edinburgh will transform itself into a gay cosmopolitan city, reminiscent of the memorable pre-war festivals.

Britain's lovely cathedral city of Canterbury will be the scene of yet another festival of music. This has long been established as one of the outstanding events of the year in Britain.

Finally, choral music will be particularly well represented at Three Choirs Festival at Worcester. Britain's finest choral will perform a widely varied programme of choral masterpieces.

Preliminary announcements indicate that this year's attractions will be of an even more ambitious character than last year. They will gain added interest from celebration centenary of Chopin's visit to the city.

THIS year's innovation is an assembly at the famous town of Bath, so named from the Roman baths still to be seen. It is designed to introduce children and parents to that unique combination of art in a historic and beautiful setting with a ceremonial which gives a festival its peculiar character. An attractive event will be a period costume ball to be held in the Pump Rooms. The novel feature of this assembly, being held in April, will be a conference to discuss special problems of introducing young people to the arts.

The annual Shakespeare season, which is Britain's greatest national festival of the theatre, will again be held in the immortal playwright's birthplace. It extends from April to October, and this year an outstanding cast of players has been assembled. Last year this event attracted a record number of 231,000 visitors. Audiences were representative of no less than 52 different countries.

Another dramatic festival honours Britain's greatest living playwright, whose plays are translated into all

most every language. What Stratford-on-Avon is to Shakespeare, Malvern is to Bernard Shaw. This festival is also a delightful social occasion. Not only is there a different play each night to enjoy but also garden parties, tea-time talks, Sunday concerts and an attractive club where visitors may meet. The great dramatist, whose 92nd birthday the festival will specially honour, is writing a new play specifically for the event.

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C.V.R. Thompson IDEALS TO ORDER

NEW YORK.
A BOOKLET on how not to be mistaken for a Communist is Hollywood's best-seller today. It is called Screen Guide for Americans, and is published by the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals.

This Right-wing organization was founded by, among others, Ginger Rogers' mother.

The booklet lists these don'ts for film makers: Don't smear the free enterprise system; don't deify the common man; don't glorify failure; don't smear industrialists; don't permit any disparagement of personal success; don't give to your characters—as a sign of villainy—a desire to make money.

WHILE stars and producers are preoccupied with their advice, Hollywood's own "little people," the extras, 2,000 of whom have not had work for six months, are earning a living in the orange groves as pickers.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN, who is on holiday in the tropics, is greeted everywhere with his favourite tune, "The Missouri Waltz." But at home the tune might well be "Everyone's Wild About Harry."

To the Jews, the Left-wingers, and the Tories, there must now be added Truman's own lieutenants. For there is nothing like within his Democrat Party. "Truman is going to lose us this election," grumble such stalwart White House supporters as Senator Alben Barkley and ex-Speaker Samuel Rayburn.

FRANK SINATRA, the crooner, has made £2,500,000 in the past five years, but he is so broke that his manager is making him live on £25 a week.

WALL STREET is going on strike. Not the brokers, of course, but the clerks and telegraph operators who make it possible for millions to change hands every day. They want their average wage of £10 a week increased to £12 10s. The Exchange says they haven't a chance.

AMERICA'S official weather prophets, using traditional methods, have missed forecasting every big snow this winter. George MacCormack, an amateur who predicts weather by the behaviour of planets, forecast last September the winter's three big falls—December 28, January 24, February 22.

TRAVEL: A survey of a cross-section of prospective American tourists to Britain and elsewhere in Europe this summer shows that 40 percent of them want, above all else, efficient and courteous service, and that 32 percent want "very good food."

COMIC STRIP: New York State is considering a Bill to control some comic strips, because "they use bad grammar and are immoral, bold, vicious, and contributing factors to juvenile delinquency."

OPINION: Writing a guest column for Leonard Lyons, James Mason says that anyone criticizing Hollywood films is really paying America a compliment. His argument: "Real Americans talk to each other like grown-ups and do things; Hollywood's Americans are the victims of 'enforced banality.'"

PROHIBITION does not work, even when it is juke-boxes which are banned. Five years ago Alabama State outlawed the penny gramophone in all pubs. They drove people to drink, they argued, and increased juvenile delinquency, crime, and immorality.

Today the board which banned the juke-box admitted that drinking had increased, and that "juke-eaters" were Bing, Sinatra, and Benny Goodman can be heard in a beery atmosphere have been opened in every town. It lifted the ban.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

"CAN joy kill?" asks a morning paper. It can certainly hurt. When Legendre, the geometrician, was given the Legion of Honour, he went home and jumped so high for joy that he banged his head on the ceiling and was knocked out.

A friend remarked "Had he killed himself, it would have been a death worthy of the successor of Archimedes."

And now I come to think of it. Baubin, a member of the Council of Ancients under the Directory, was said to have dropped dead from joy when told in 1799 that Bonaparte had come back from Egypt and was the man chosen by Sieyès to get rid of the Government.

Trio did their act. He received an indignant refusal.

A daring innovation
THE first chess match to be played on skis underneath a skating rink will be broadcast next Tuesday in the Gretling Hour, with a crawling commentary by a man in a diving helmet, travelling 300 miles an hour in a plane 10,000 feet up. The moves will be radioed to him by an actress.

The cabmen again.
A NEW edition of the "List of Huntingdonshire Cabmen" has made its appearance. By adhering to alphabetical order the compilers give the lie to any criticism of undemocratic bias which might be made. Nobody who wants to know the names and initials of every cabman in Huntingdonshire can afford to be without this standard work.

NANCY Robin Hood, 1948



HEAD FIRST FOR BEAUTY!

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Fick's
DANDRUFF REMOVER
SHAMPOO
&
QUINOL

On Sale at Leading Stores.

2011 AGENTS NAN KANG CO. HONGKONG

Women BEAUTY ARTS

This Space Every Day

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Rosalind Russell for Lois Leeds.

Here are some real Star Shine tips for you!

STAR SHINE!

Rosalind Russell has a smooth, high forehead. She dramatizes it by brushing her hair back. This gives her face a clear-cut beauty, much admired.

Waists and Hips. Hemline. The "cinched-in" look at the waistline calls for the much longer skirt. The hips are accentuated by the much smaller waistline.

Shoe Tips! Black satin pumps look new, although they are a copy of the craze for satin of twenty-five years ago! Fashion, like history, always repeats!

Makeup! Women are anxious to wear more delicate makeup but all cosmetic manufacturers have not stressed the pale colours. But they will, I hope, and soon.

The pale shades and softer tones look beautiful with the present fashion. Radiant Pink should be your choice in lipstick to go with your very "lady look" hats and gowns.

Ear Tips! Brilliant earrings will make your eyes sparkle. Rhinestones and Pearls, combined, are one of the prettiest combinations. And, of course, you'll wear ropes and ropes of Pearls with Rhinestone clasps.

Hat Tips! If you are wearing your hat at the new exaggerated angle, be sure to have your hair swept high to "fill in" the open space. And apply your rouge a little higher and blend it until it is just a mere shadow of colour on each cheek.

Minute Make-up GABRIELLI



In the interest of good looks, reduce at a gradual pace. Gradual reducing is graceful reducing. Soon you will find yourself losing a little weight regularly and at the same time feeling better than you have ever felt before. There will be "leveling off" periods, during which you won't lose weight. But don't worry. Nature does this regardless of diet. Just stick to your plan. Eat less food but every bit of it selected with an eye to Minerals and Vitamins and the ounces will start dropping off.

Dress Sense

by ROBB and ANNE EDWARDS



BUTTONS—used as decoration—were a main point from both London and Paris press shows. Four smart ways to use the new fashion are: (1) To close a patch pocket; as links on a cuff; to outline a diagonal fastening; as a buckle for a shoe. **PEARL GLASS** buttons for a black suit; diamond-shaped JET buttons for light-colored jackets. But remember, to be smart buttons must be: (1) LARGE; (2) FEW; and (3) LOOK as if they have a purpose and are not just decoration—even if they are. Best way to make a phoney fastening look as if it actually fastened is to add buttonholes.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"I could say plenty, but I made a New Year resolution not to criticize faults in other women, particularly ugoli!"

Canton-Macao Rail Link Proposed

Reporting on recommendations made for part of U.S. aid to China funds to be used for reconstruction in areas away from the war zones, Chinese sources state that Dr. T. V. Soong, Governor of Kwangtung and Director of the President's Headquarters in Canton, favours, among other projects, the building of a branch railway line linking up Canton with the Portuguese colony of Macao.

These sources state that reconstruction plans are pouring into Dr. Soong's office.

Scores of government agencies and private enterprises have applied for a share of the American funds, each claiming its project should be given top priority in the reconstruction programme.

One of the largest reconstruction projects which has been presented to U.S. Secretary of State George C.

Marshall and which calls for US\$40,000,000 is that submitted by the Canton-Hankow Railway.

A spokesman of the railway administration claims that American interest in the project was reflected by the arrival of several U.S. experts to study the reconstruction project for the fuller operation of the railway.

Dr. Soong is said to advocate the construction of a branch line to facilitate the transportation of coal from Yangtze Hill, which could increase its production from 400 to 1,000 tons per day.

A new railway machine factory is also proposed for Canton to assemble and repair railway equipment. This would require US\$1,000,000. Another million is asked for renovating various railway stations.

SINGAPORE MAY HOUSE U.N. BODIES

Two United Nations bodies may set up headquarters in Singapore. They are the Food and Agricultural Organisation and the Economic Council for Asia and the Far East.

The Straits Times was told officially that they would consider setting up temporary headquarters in the Far East.

FAO is directly part of the United Nations. ECAFE is a subsidiary body established by U.N.'s Economic and Social Council.

ECAFE recently held a preliminary meeting at Shanghai and its first conference at Baguio, in the Philippines.

Its next full conference will be held in India in May this year.

Under Discussion

At this meeting the question of temporary headquarters in the Far East will be discussed.

The question of FAO Far East headquarters is already under discussion. The suggestion is that a Regional Office and Advisory Council in the Far East be set up.

There are several places in the Far East with claims for the headquarters of these two bodies.

China will press Shanghai's claims. The Philippines will support Baguio's. Siam has offered facilities at Bangkok.

It is understood that Singapore's claims have the support of India and the Netherlands East Indies.

They Couldn't Care Less About Picasso

Pablo Picasso, the storm centre of Western art for two decades, is a graven image in the hearts of all young artists.

But he was wiped off by Moscow last year when he was called "the chief representative of the decadent French school."

Now, says a Paris correspondent, Roland Pullen, everybody is beginning to ask whether France has finished with him, too.

Although the salons are still full of paintings in the Picasso style by faithful disciples, impartial critics of several nations lament that French art has declined in the past ten years, partly due to Picasso's strong influence.

Now the Master himself has flopped.

A season of Sophocles's Greek tragedy, Oedipus Rex, at the Theatre Champs Elysees, with decor by Picasso, has had to close down only 10 nights after his opening—a financial fiasco.

The characters had been made up in authentic Picasso style—so that they looked forwards and sideways at the same time.

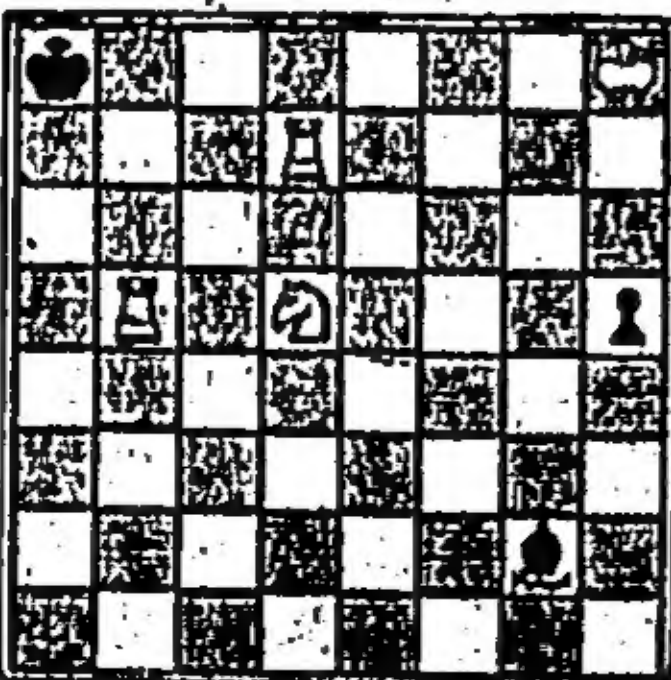
It could not go wrong, entrepreneurs thought everybody would want to see what Picasso had made of Sophocles. But the empty seats showed that Paris, like Moscow, couldn't care less.

Meanwhile, on the Cote d'Azur, Picasso paints on unperturbed. He has the best part of £250,000 in the bank.

CHESS PROBLEM

By G. THOREN

Black, 3 pieces



White, 4 pieces.

White to play and mate in three. Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. K-K1, any; 2. Q-R, K1 or E mates.

'MIRACLE' BIRTH

A cot in Chester city hospital for a week held the secret of the miracle birth of a baby—doomed, it seemed, to live only a few days—who now has the same expectation of life as any other child.

But the names of the six doctors who drained every drop of blood from the child's body as soon as she was born, replacing it with new blood from an anonymous donor, will never be known. They made a pledge in the operating theatre that no names be used when they announced the success of the experiment.

One said that owing to a rare incompatibility in the blood of the parents, Edward J. Jones, 34, former Chester railway official, and his 25-year-old wife, Margaret May Jones, it was almost impossible for them to have children who would live more than a few days. Of their three elder children, only one—a boy—survived in the face of odds of 85 percent against him.

"We decided," said the doctor, "that the only method of saving the child's life was by a complete change of blood. As soon as she arrived, we inserted a special plastic tube into one vein and in half an hour, pumped in negative blood required to give her health and life."

The father says: "Our daughter will sail to America with us in the Queen Elizabeth in April. She will be named Margaret, with a second name which will have some relation to the miracle of her birth."

LOST TEETH, GOT SORE THROAT

A man in Perth, West Australia, who "lost" a denture found it seven weeks later in his gullet.

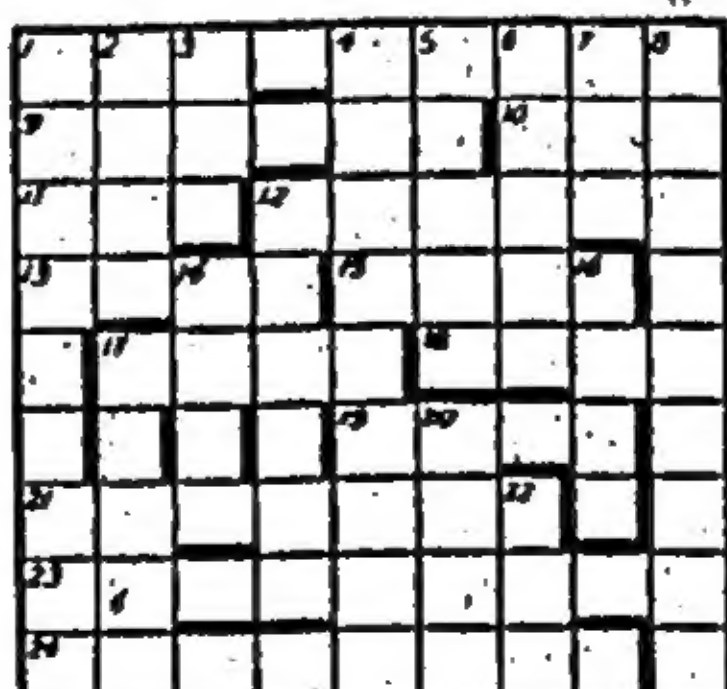
The man, Les France, aged 38, searched his home after he first found the denture, which has two teeth on it. Finally he gave the plate up for lost.

Shortly afterwards, he developed a sore throat, but did not attribute it to the missing denture.

When France visited a doctor about his sore throat, the doctor found that the denture was lodged in his gullet.

A surgeon operated on France's throat and removed the denture. It is now back in its rightful position.

CROSSWORD



Across
1. You may walk down the Mopen road. (9)
10. There is no horse power in these shops. (3)
11. Views from the week-end. (3)
12. Votes for the Russians. (5)
13. Rally after this for the middle. (4)
14. Give away. (4)
15. Undoubtedly a pure country. (4)
16. Measure. (4)

Down
1. Made impossible. (9)
2. Implement. (4)
3. Nothing from the road instrument. (3)
4. Oral delivery. (9)
5. At to time. (5)
6. One eleven. (5)
7. A party sort of animal? (5)
8. Prices quoted for time as set. (9)
9. Bannister. (5)
10. Direction the sea follows. (4)
11. The direction follows the war. (4)
12. A piece of household furniture with many keys. (5)
13. A game entertainment party. (4)
14. Implication of war. (5)
15. Position of yesterday's puzzle—sawyer. (4)
16. A word for a person who is a bit of a fool. (4)
17. A word for a person who is a bit of a fool. (4)
18. A word for a person who is a bit of a fool. (4)
19. A word for a person who is a bit of a fool. (4)
20. A word for a person who is a bit of a fool. (4)
21. A word for a person who is a bit of a fool. (4)
22. A word for a person who is a bit of a fool. (4)

Rupert's Silver Trumpet—21



The bird's warning makes Rupert feel nervous. More birds arrive and fly round and round as if waiting for something, but the little bird cannot understand what it is all about, so he takes the trumpet and tries to make out how they blow it. Suddenly a crow from Willie makes him turn. "Quick!" shouts the little mouse, "up in the sky! Can you see them? Do look! A lot of tiny men all walking down on the sunbeams! Whoever are they?"

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DUMB BELLS



McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Navy Makes a Good Showing at Bridge

953	953	953	953
K5	K5	K5	K5
987642	987642	987642	987642
K	K	K	K
AKQJ7	AKQJ7	AKQJ7	AKQJ7
10987	10987	10987	10987
52	52	52	52
Dealer	Dealer	Dealer	Dealer
10864	10864	10864	10864
KJ10	KJ10	KJ10	KJ10
AQ4	AQ4	AQ4	AQ4
Rubber—E-W vul	Rubber—E-W vul	Rubber—E-W vul	Rubber—E-W vul
South West North East	South West North East	South West North East	South West North East
1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8
Opening—K	Opening—K	Opening—K	Opening—K
16	16	16	16

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

ONE of these days I would like to put on a bridge contest between my friends in the Army and Navy. Of course Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther is the top bridge name in Army circles, although I understand that General Eisenhower claims to be a better player, and that Gen. Mark Clark questions that statement.

In these three and Gen. Robert J. Gill of Baltimore, Md., would team up against a picked Navy team (whose names I will not mention now, lest I tip off my hand) it could become another great annual Army-Navy game.

I learned recently while playing in a game with a naval officer that the Navy is not afraid to bid. Sitting South, I opened the bidding on today's hand with one spade, although some experts would prefer to open it with a club.

I thought that the opponents might make four hearts, and that was the reason I went to five diamonds. When West bid five hearts, the Navy took command and went to six diamonds. There was no question from the look in his face that he intended to make it.

He won the opening lead in dummy with the ace of spades, led a small club to the king, cashed the ace of diamonds and led a small diamond back to dummy's king. On the ace and queen of clubs he discarded his two losing spades, then played the four of hearts. West quickly took his ace, and the captain spread his hand, claiming the balance.

Check Your Knowledge

1. What is the Vulgate?
2. What is a bill of adventure?
3. Who was known as the "Knight without a flaw"?
4. Who in World War I were called the "Ladies from Hell"?
5. What country built the Suez Canal?
6. Name the Bolshevik leader whom Stalin drove out of Russia. (Answers on Page 4)

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EXTENSIVE MILITARY AID TO NANKING FORECAST

BY STEWART HENLEY

Washington, Mar. 8.—Informed sources predicted today that the United States within the next few months will become committed to supplying considerable military aid to Chiang Kai-shek's government despite the fact that the State Department is against such a course.

Two Fleets In Singapore

Singapore, Mar. 8.—Two fleets, one British and one American, arrived here today and anchored together in the gutter roads.

Admiral Sir Denis Boyd, Commander-in-Chief of the British Pacific Fleet, came from a visit to Saigon, flying his flag in the 10,000-ton cruiser London, with three destroyers in company.

The 27,000-ton United States aircraft carrier Valley Forge arrived flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Martin, commanding United States Task Force 38, with an escort of three destroyers.

The United States squadron leaves for Trincomalee, Ceylon, on Thursday. — Reuter.

BRITAIN'S FLEET STILL FORMIDABLE

(Continued from Page 1)

administration would soon restore our naval strength and repulse throughout the world.

Mr. Churchill said if the Government had taken his advice and reduced the navy personnel nearly three years ago instead of now, the Royal Navy would by now be approaching a period when it would have something like a Home Fleet in commission again.

Mr. A. V. Alexander, the Minister of Defence, who spoke next, claimed that had Mr. Churchill's advice in 1945 been followed, the Fleet would have been in a disastrous position with not enough trained men left in the Navy today.

Replying to Mr. Churchill's criticism of scrapping of old battleships, Mr. Alexander said good use of the ships put into reserve had been made in the past but were those conditions likely to operate in another war?

To put the battleships Nelson and Rodney into a fit condition to go into reserve would cost £11,000,000 and £12,000,000. They would take up dockyard labour for the next three or four years.

CHURCHILL'S RETORT

Mr. Churchill: "I don't believe it at all. They could be placed in basins or roadsteads, where they might remain, without that expenditure."

Mr. Alexander replied: "We will not allow the Royal Navy to come to a position of weakness in which it would be unable to meet its commitments."

"We have accepted naval advice and taken full responsibility for it of the temporary immobilisation of certain ships, while we get more quickly to a balanced training force capable of manning the ships at an early date."

Regarding the possibility of manning, Mr. Alexander declared: "If we need a balanced task force to go to sea within one week to 10 days from now, it could be provided."

"I would like that to be known. It not only here—but to the world. It would very seriously interfere with the detailed technical scheme of training, but, nevertheless, it can be done and would, if necessary, be done."

EARL HOWE'S SUGGESTION

London, Mar. 8.—An Imperial Defence Conference on British naval strength was suggested by Earl Howe, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Naval Reserve, in the House of Lords today.

He referred to the Government announcements on the scrapping of ships and asked: "Has the Government sought the view of the Dominions?"

He suggested steps might have been taken much earlier to prevent "a clash of interests" in the Falkland Islands.

"Why could we not have accepted the offer made by the Australian Government to send a cruiser," he asked.

He had no doubts that Britain's failure to obtain reparations from Albania for the loss of so many British seamen when the destroyers Saururus and Volage were "deliberately mined" in the Corfu Channel, made other nations think they could "twist the lion's tail with impunity."

"The Services—land, air and sea—must combine in one gigantic operation," and he hoped they would never again hear of troubles between them when the Services seemed to be at loggerheads with one another. — Reuter.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers

1. A translation of the Hebrew Bible and the Greek New Testament into Latin. 2. A declaration signed by the master of a ship which carries goods at the owner's risk. 3. Sir Galahad. 4. The Scottish Highlanders. 5. France. 6. Leon Trotsky.

Although Administration officials assert they have no current plans for giving the Nanking Government military aid beyond what it has already received from United States army surplus, they do not rule out the possibility that such assistance may materialise as a result of the various factors at work on Congressional, official and public opinion.

Whether the State Department changes its stand on this question voluntarily or not, most informed observers believe that Congress is virtually certain to include military aid to the Chinese assistance programme despite Secretary of State George C. Marshall's desire that it be confined to commodities and reconstruction assistance.

Informed sources point out several factors which tend to increase the possibility of the United States putting more military equipment into the hands of the Nanking Government. One of these is the rapidly deteriorating military position of Chiang's army. Another is the impact of the testimony by Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, to the effect that military assistance would provide the only solution of the China problem.

Quiet Lobbying

Still another factor, and one not so widely recognized, as the others, is that large United States business interests in the financial stakes or potentials in China are quietly lobbying to swing more Congressional sentiment behind large-scale aid for Chiang.

State Department officials, even that majority who strongly deplore the alleged "corruption and inefficiency" in the Chinese Government, are growing increasingly concerned over the reverses Chiang's legions have suffered on the battlefield in the past few months. According to the officials, the U.S. strategy at the time Gen. Marshall returned from his failure to mediate in the civil war was to adopt a more or less hands-off policy with the idea that both sides would exhaust any significant advantage. The idea then was that both the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communists would be much more amenable to negotiations for a coalition government.

However, the past six months failed to bear out that thesis, and now even those officials most critical of the Kuomintang are beginning to admit that the United States cannot stand by and witness the collapse of the Chiang government. However, so far they maintain, at least

St Teresa's To Build Parochial Hall

The St Teresa's Church Parochial Council has decided to revive the pre-war scheme of building a spacious parochial hall for the benefit of the community. It is to be built on the vacant Mission ground to the west of St Teresa's Church.

The Council, which consists of 15 members of St Teresa's Church, has been moved to resurrect the pre-war scheme to build the parochial hall by the Pope's recent appeals to "counteract the evils of materialism which so threatens Christian civilization and world peace."

It is planned to use the hall for all parochial associations, lecture courses, concerts, study circles, sports, social gatherings and other activities primarily aimed to give young Catholics practical moral training.

It is estimated that the building will cost \$15,000 and the Parochial Council, the chairman of which is Father Granelli, has decided to launch a campaign for raising funds by means of subscriptions and collections taken outside of the church doors on Sundays.

Donors of \$5,000 will have their names empanelled within the precincts of the hall as "founders" and those who give \$1,000 or more will be recorded as "special subscribers."

The Hon. Treasurer of this fund is Mr. F. E. d'Almada Remedios.

Truman Is A Candidate

Washington, Mar. 8.—President Truman said today through the Democratic National Committee that he would run for re-election as president this year if nominated by the party's National Convention.

Meanwhile at Honolulu the Star Bulletin said today that it learned reliably that President Truman has appointed Percy Hampton Johnston retired chairman of the Chemical Bank and Trust Company, New York, to investigate China's financial situation.

The paper said Mr. Truman telephoned the banker, who is visiting his son in Honolulu. It said that Johnston who is in bed with a virus infection, declined to comment but that he was reliably informed that he would leave for China in a special military plane. — Associated Press.

publicly, that it can be kept alive by commodity help of the type envisaged in Gen. Marshall's proposed \$570,000,000 China aid programme.

Effect On Public Opinion

There are some signs of wavering on the part of the Administration regarding military aid, but most informed sources believe its endorsement of this type of assistance, if and when it comes, will not occur until the European recovery plan has been safely passed and there is no danger of increased aid to China being diverted into the hands of the Marshall plan.

Meanwhile, Gen. MacArthur's and Gen. Wedemeyer's advice to give Chiang more military aid, coming as it did at a time when Chiang's military fortunes are ebbing rapidly, and being taken as it was with the concepts of global strategy against Communism, appears to have had considerable effect on Congressional and public opinion.

After Gen. Marshall's admission that Communist domination of China north of the Yangtze would render the American position in Korea untenable and pose a "very serious problem" to the United States occupation forces in Japan, there have been increasing editorial inquiries as to why, in the light of that statement, the Administration continues to be adamant against bolstering Chiang with military aid.

Gen. Marshall's explanation that economic aid will free some Chinese foreign exchange for the purchase of a limited amount of military equipment does not appear to have had much appreciable effect in calming the apprehensions of those who fear the repercussions of the defeat of Chiang.

Interested Observers

The representatives of big companies which have interests in Oriental economics are interested observers of every Congressional hearing on China aid. They make no secret of the fact that they are interested in seeing the United States bolster Chiang sufficiently to enable China to attain peace and stability, which would be a requisite to their long-delayed plans for full resumption of activities in that area or, in some cases, expansion of activities.

Most informed sources believe that without the strength of Gen. Marshall's great personal prestige the Administration could not for so long have withstood various demands for more aid and military aid to China. Even that is not expected to prevent Congress from voting military aid into the China aid bill when Senators Styles Bridges and Robert Taft, together with Representatives who favour such action, bring full pressure to bear in favour of a larger China aid programme.

Meanwhile, in the debate over the question of military aid, press, public and Congressional attention is at present being given to the question of whether the United States ought to attempt measures to assist in the stabilisation of the Chinese currency.

Silver-Based Currency

Assertions from such quarters as Representative Walter Judd and the editorial columns of the Washington Post and others, that a programme for restoring a silver basis of currency in China might be effective, have aroused no particular interest either in Congress or among the public so far. The fact that such ideas, being reluctant to change even an inflated currency for one subject to the whims of the silver market, has contributed to the lack of interest on this score.

The Chinese idea that the United States might advance a loan to assist the Foreign Exchange Equalisation Committee in Shanghai to maintain a more even level in foreign transactions has been met with considerable official coolness. Most officials appear to believe it is but another type of currency loan and would result in nothing but giving the Chinese another line of credit without having any effect on either the exchange situation or the currency problem.

Military Aid Urged

Washington, Mar. 8.—Military aid for China was urged today by the Director-General of UNRRA.

Lowell W. Rooks, UNRRA chief, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that economic aid alone is "useless" to the Chinese National Government in its war with the Chinese Reds.

Rooks said the United States should send American military men to China to equip, train, organize and direct Chinese forces "even down to tactics and strategy."

Rooks told the Committee that military and economic aid in China are equally important. One would be worthless without the other.

When asked what aid, if any, the Chinese Reds are getting from outside of China, Rooks said he could not say, but he has heard on good authority that a great amount of the military supplies the Russians had captured from the Japanese had turned up in Communist hands.

Didn't Like To Answer

Maj. Gen. E. E. Edgerton, former chief of the UNRRA China office, advocated economic aid for China. He was asked: "Do you think it is possible to give military aid without ultimately sending over American divisions?"

Edgerton said he would "like to answer" that question in an open session.

Gen. Claire Chennault, famed chief of the Flying Tigers, arrived by plane today from China to give his views on what should be done there. He will probably appear before the Committee on Wednesday. — Associated Press.



"You must be doing something wrong, George. I can spank him without making him cry."

Fu Tso-Yi Smashes Red Threat West Of Peiping

Shanghai, Mar. 9.—Infantry and cavalry under General Fu Tso-yi routed a Communist force massed west of Peiping, easing temporarily the Red threat to the coal mines 20 miles west of Peiping, according to a Government communique today.

The outbreak of fighting near Peiping coincided with an announcement of the Red radio that the Communists plan to launch a spring offensive "soon." The Red radio said the Reds had completed winter training, and the armies in Shantung, North Kiangsu, Shan-shi, Chahar, Hopei, and Honan "will unfold a spring offensive soon."

The Red radio added that the armies under Generals Liu Po-cheng, Chen Yi and Chen Keng are "holding down 90 of a total of 160 Kuomintang brigades on the whole of the southern front."

News of the fighting at Szepeing, 100 miles north of Mukden, continues to be confused. There is neither confirmation nor denial of reports that the city has fallen.

There are increasing signs that the government intends to launch a drive to recapture the port of Ying-kow soon. The air force has kept up constant aerial attacks. Naval units are reported to be gathering off-shore waiting for the attack signal.

Marshall Plan Action Promised

Washington, Mar. 8.—U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. George Marshall, was told on Monday that the House of Representatives would probably take action on the European recovery programme by April 10 or soon after.

The assurance was given to Mr. Marshall by the House speaker, Mr. C. Martin, when the Secretary of State called on him at the speaker's office yesterday.

With Mr. Marshall was the Under Secretary of State Robert Lovett and the U.S. Ambassador to Britain, Lewis H. Douglas.

Mr. Martin said aid to China was also discussed, but the main purpose of the visit was to plot a time table for European aid. — Associated Press.

POLICE FIRE ON STRIKERS

Kyrenia, Mar. 8.—The police opened fire when six lorries, carrying workmen, were attacked by strikers at the Mavrovouni copper mines today. Two men were wounded. It was stated.

The Pan-Cyprian Federation of Labour, however, called mass meetings in Nicosia tonight to protest against the death of a 50-year-old man, who, they said, "was killed today, while resisting strike-breakers."

Press reports that a striker was killed when the police opened fire were officially denied here tonight.

The strike at the copper mines began 64 days ago when the men demanded increased wages and a 40-hour week. — Reuter.

The Last Word About Hongkong?

Ottawa, Mar. 8.—The Canadian Government intends to table about 1,000,000 words of hitherto unpublished evidence on the defence of Hongkong in the House of Commons this week.

Only one copy of the evidence, taken by a Royal Commission in 1942, is being tabled because of the heavy printing cost.

Many Canadians were captured in the fighting before Hongkong fell to the Japanese. — Reuter.

U.N. BALKAN COMMISSION SHELLED

Athens, Mar. 8.—A detachment from the United Nations Balkan Commission was shelled in Macedonia, near the frontier, press reports from Salonika said today. No damage was done by the shelling, the reports added.

The Athens news agency quoted unconfirmed reports from Salonika that guerrillas had mined the railway line between Salonika and Kikila "in an attempt on the life of Major-General James Van Fleet, head of the military section of the American aid mission to Greece."

General Van Fleet, Brigadier Steel, the deputy head of the British mission in Greece, and General Yantzia, the Greek Chief of Staff, were expected back in Athens today from a tour of Northern Greece.

The Greek General Staff communique reported today that in the fighting on the Albanian border at Philates, where aircraft were supporting Government troops, the Government forces lost 34 dead between Thursday and Saturday.

Six officers and 28 other ranks were killed and three officers and 30 other ranks wounded.

In Central Macedonia, Government warplanes strafed guerrilla positions. — Reuter.

SLAIN WOMEN IDENTIFIED

Saigon, Mar. 8.—The charred bodies of two American women, found under the wreckage of their jeep on the road to Saigon Airport, were identified today by their jewellery.

They were Mrs. Jeanne Skewes, Director of the United States Information Service here, and Miss Lydia Ruth James, a secretary at the United States Consulate General.

French soldiers found the bodies three miles from town, when sent to investigate the sound of firing. The bodies were under the jeep behind a screen of bamboo bushes in the bed of a dried-up river.

The assassins had set fire to the jeep.

The spot where the bodies were found is outside the security zone established by the French authorities. Both the French and American authorities are investigating. — Reuter.

"HOOCH" KILLS NINE PEOPLE

Berlin, Mar. 8.—Nine persons died and six others lost their sight after drinking methyl alcohol in a Leipzig suburb during the spring fair, the French licensed newspaper Der Kurier reported yesterday.

Twenty-four persons, including 12 members of the Russian Occupation Forces were sent to hospital after drinking the mixture, the paper said.

Three cafes, were closed as a result and all owners and waiters arrested. — Associated Press.

DEATH OF MOSLEM RESIDENT

The death occurred early this morning of Hajee Moos Azim, one of the oldest members of the Moslem community. Mr. Azim, formerly of the Treasury, was 75 years of age. The funeral will take place at the Mohammedan Cemetery at 5.15 p.m. today.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices and Classified Advertisements will be received until 4.30 p.m. for the following day.

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Notice To Shareholders

NOTICE is hereby given that the forty-sixth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Members of this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., on Wednesday the 17th day of March, 1948, at Noon, to receive the Report of the Board of Directors and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1947, to elect Directors and to appoint Auditors.

Notice is also given that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 4th March, 1948, to the 17th March, 1948, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
C. E. TERRY,
Manager & Secretary.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1948.

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